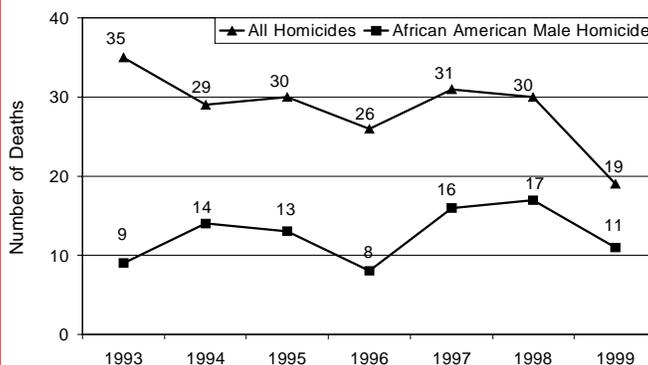


Focus on Community Violence

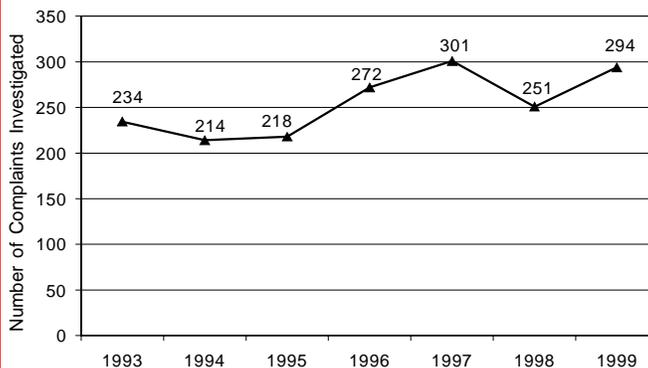
The Community HealthWatch report cards are developed by the Kent County Health Department to report on the status of health priorities being monitored in the Kent County community by Healthy Kent 2010. This report card focuses on community violence. In 1995, two Healthy Kent subcommittees were convened to establish goals to reduce and prevent violence in Kent County; ultimately these groups merged and formed the Kent County Violence Prevention Coalition. Today, eight Violence Prevention Coalition "Action Teams" deal with violence-related issues and programs ranging from youth violence to elder abuse and neglect. In addition, the Coalition provides mini-grants to support innovative community-based programs to reduce violence, and sponsors two annual conferences on violence prevention -- one targeting youth, and another for professionals and the community at-large.

African American Male Homicide



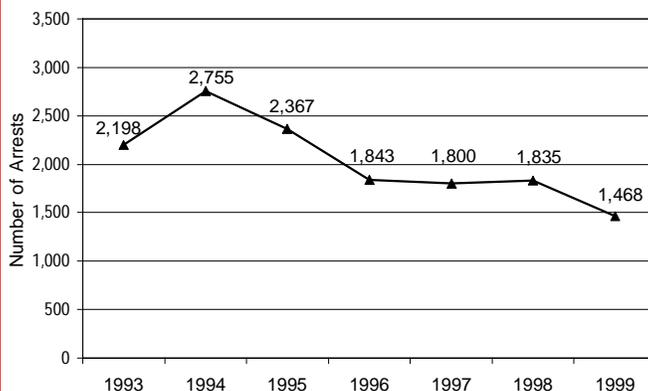
Although the 19 homicides in Kent County in 1999 represent a 35% decrease from the 1996-98 three-year average (29), 58% of victims were **African American males**. In 2000, the Kent County Medical Examiner investigated 23 total homicides, five (22%) of which were African American males. While these downward trends are encouraging, African American males continue to be overrepresented among homicide victims in Kent County.

Vulnerable Adult Abuse and Neglect



The Kent County Family Independence Agency investigated 289 cases of **vulnerable adult abuse and neglect** in 2000, slightly more than the 1997-99 three-year average of 282. Of the cases investigated, 170 (59%) were substantiated, meaning that protective action was taken. This Fall, the Violence Prevention Coalition will convene a Vulnerable Adult Abuse and Neglect Action Team to implement strategies for violence prevention in this population.

Juvenile Crime Index



The **Juvenile Crime Index** is the number of arrests of youths, age 16 and under, for eight specific offenses: murder, rape, arson, robbery, aggravated assault, motor vehicle theft, burglary, and larceny. In Kent County in 1999, there were 1,468 juvenile index crimes, a 20% decrease from the preceding three-year average of 1,826 (1996-98). While this decrease is encouraging, violence prevention for youth continues to be a priority.